

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/448,301

Examiner

ANH H. DO

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment on 12/12/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5,7-11,14-17 and 19-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks (pages 12-13), filed 12/12/2006, with respect to claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 17, and 18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 4, 5, 7-11, 17, and 18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-17, and 19-26 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

* Some rejected claims have been cancelled to place the application in allowance condition;

* The present invention provides a new system for retrieving an image from an image database, which can easily render image data of an image database, retrieve information related to the image such as the image itself, image data thereof, information of image processing of the image in a simple and rapid way and is advantageously utilized in an image processing apparatus such as a photographic printing system or the like (see specification, page 4, last paragraph).

Particularly, the new system comprises the following features, which the prior art taken either singly or in combination does not teach:

- wherein said retrieval device performs retrieval of said image using said compressed image data after said compressed image data of said split images in

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regions which are in point symmetry relation with each other about the center of said image are added (see independent claims 1, 15, and 16);

- wherein said compression device performs normalization for correcting fluctuation of said image data in reading to perform setup of said image data to achieve a predetermined reference value of the compressed image data; wherein said fluctuation of said image data is due to at least one of (i) changes of light when scanning said image, (ii) changes in reading positions when scanning said image, (iii) changes in a physical condition or reading position of a photographic print when scanning the photographic print, or (iv) changes in said image data made by altering image data from a digital camera (see independent claims 19 and 23).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH H. DO whose telephone number is 571-272-7433. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 26, 2006



ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER